Refugees from Burma

198. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of refugees from Burma are coming to Manipur in India and the number is likely to increase in the coming days;

(b) if so, what is their number and the steps Government have taken to stop more influx of refugees from Burma and what arrangements have been made for their shelter and food in India;

(c) whether the Government of India is in contact with Government of Burma in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Following the recent developments in Burma, Burmese nationals have been coming into our territory including in the State of Manipur. While the number of refugees would depend on the developments across the Border according to the State Government of Manipur, there were 57 Burmese nationals (as on 28-10-1988) staying in camp at Moreh.

In keeping with the Indian traditions, it has been decided that Burmese nationals seeking refuge may be allowed to enter and stay on Indian soil temporarily. State Governments have been advised to lodge them in camps and arrange for their food etc. Central Government will re-imburse expenditure incurred on their boarding and lodging.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Evasion of Income Tax and Excise Duty by M/s. Paltex, Pal House, Bombay

199. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Paltex, Pal House 41, Marol Cooperative Industrial Estate, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Bombay have evaded income tax and excise duty on cloth to the tune of several lakhs during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken against the above company for evading taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) No evasion either of income tax or central excise duty has been reported against M/s Paltex, Bombay.

Interest Subsidy by NABARD on Crop Loans

200. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government to persuade NABARD to subsidise two per cent interest or as an alternative evolve a mechanism whereby refinance for crop loans is made available in such way that interest burden is compensated; and

(b) if so, what are the details there and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.